AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 -10.   Cancelled.

11.   (Currently amended) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor ~~to~~ for a dongle ~~connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface~~, said method comprising:

~~reading license~~ storing in a file on a first computer to which a first dongle is connected via an interface parameters associated with an authorization code stored on the first dongle ~~belonging to the licensor~~, but not storing in the file the authorization code; ~~from a security file, stored on the first computer the security file belonging to the authorization code and containing the license parameters but does not contain the authorization code;~~

sending the ~~read~~ ~~license~~ parameters to a second computer;

after sending the parameters, receiving ~~an~~ a restored authorization code at the first computer in a ~~device-specific~~ format that can be ~~read~~ interpreted only by the dongle ~~but~~ and not by the ~~licensee~~ first computer; and

storing the restored authorization code in ~~the~~ a second dongle connected to the first computer.

12.   Cancelled.

13.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~license~~ parameters are signed with time information for protection and are ~~provided~~ stored at least partially in encrypted form in the ~~security~~ file.

14.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:
receiving from the first computer the ~~license~~ parameters at the second computer;
evaluating the parameters; and
deciding with the second computer whether or not to return to the first computer the ~~requested~~ restored authorization code ~~should be returned to the first computer~~.

15.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~11~~ 13, further comprising:

communicating time information stored in the ~~security~~ file <u>from the first computer</u> to the second computer;

evaluating the time information at the second computer; and

generating ~~an~~ <u>the restored</u> authorization code ~~corresponding to~~ <u>based on</u> the time information.

16.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> several authorization codes for licenses<u>, at least one for each of a plurality</u> of ~~several~~ licensors[[,]] are stored on the dongle.

17.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>further comprising establishing a</u> remote data connections ~~are established~~ to a computer associated with each of the several licensors, in order to permit <u>sending to each of the licensors parameters associated with the licensor, and receive from the several licensors restored authorization codes.</u> ~~the corresponding authorization codes to be restored~~.

18.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:

establishing a remote data connection between the first computer and a central management computer;

sending the ~~security~~ file <u>from the first computer</u> to the management computer; and

establishing a data connection between the second computer and <u>at least</u> the management computer.

19.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

establishing a remote data connection between the first computer and the second computer <u>for communicating the restored authorization code from the second computer to the first computer</u>.

20.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that the ~~security~~ file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the dongle and said method further comprising:

reading the serial number from the ~~security~~ file;

sending the serial number to a management computer; and

storing the serial number in a block list at the management computer.

3

21.   (Currently amended)   A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, ~~with the authorization code being stored in a dongle, which is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, characterized in that~~ a ~~security file, which belongs to the authorization code and which contains the license parameters but does not contain the authorization code, is stored on the computer of the licensee, and~~ said method comprising:

storing in a file on a computer of a licensee to which a first dongle is connected via an interface license parameters associated with an authorization code stored on the first dongle;

reading of the license parameters associated with the authorization code ~~belonging to the licensor~~ from the ~~security~~ file;

sending the read license parameters to a computer of a licensor ~~the licensor~~;

receiving the license parameters at ~~a~~ the computer of the licensor;

evaluating the license parameters at the computer of the licensor;

in response to receiving the license parameters, restoring ~~the~~ a restored authorization code corresponding to the received license parameters at the computer of the licensor;

returning the restored authorization code to the computer of the licensee in a ~~device-specific~~ format that can be interpreted by ~~is specific to~~ the dongle and that cannot be ~~read~~ interpreted by the computer of the licensee; and

storing the restored authorization code on ~~the~~ a second dongle connected to the computer of the licensee ~~in the device-specific format~~.

22.   (Currently amended)   The method according to Claim 21, wherein the license parameters are signed with time information ~~for protection~~ and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the ~~security~~ file.

23.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, further comprising:

sending time information stored in the ~~security~~ file to the licensor;

evaluating the time information by the licensor; and

generating an authorization code corresponding to the time information.

24.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein several authorization codes for licenses of several licensors are stored on the dongle ~~data-processing device~~.

25.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~21~~ 24, wherein remote data connections are established to computers for the several licensors, in order to permit ~~the~~ each of the several licensor to evaluate parameters and to restore to the second dongle corresponding restored authorization codes ~~to be restored~~.

26.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, further comprising:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a central management computer;

sending the ~~security~~ file to the management computer; and

establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer.

27.   (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and the computer of the licensor.

28.   (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the ~~security~~ file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the data-processing device and said method includes the steps of:

reading the serial number from the ~~security~~ file;

sending the serial number to a management computer; and

storing the serial number in a block list at a management computer.

29.   Cancelled

30.   Cancelled

31.   Canceled

32.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the authorization code is storable only on the access-protected data processing device.

33.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the ~~security~~ file does not store the authorization code.

34.   (Currently amended) A computer readable medium, <u>excluding signals,</u> storing instructions that, when read by a computer, cause the computer to execute a process for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor ~~to~~ <u>for</u> a dongle ~~that is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface~~, the method comprising:

    reading of license parameters from a file <u>stored on a first computer and</u> associated with<u>, but</u> not containing,</u> ~~the~~ <u>an original</u> authorization code <u>assigned to the licensee by the licensee for the dongle</u> ~~containing the license parameters~~, the ~~security~~ file being stored on the computer of the licensee ~~but not containing the authorization code~~;

    sending with the <u>first</u> computer ~~of the licensee~~ the read license parameters to a computer of licensor;

    receiving with the <u>first</u> computer ~~of the licensee~~ ~~the~~ <u>a</u> restored authorization code in a ~~device-specific~~ format that can be ~~read~~ <u>interpreted</u> by the dongle but not by the computer of the licensee; and

    storing the restored authorization code on the dongle in the ~~device-specific~~ format.

35.   Cancelled.

36.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, <u>wherein</u> the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the ~~security~~ file.

37.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the process further comprises sending time information stored in the ~~security~~ file to the computer of the licensor.

38.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein a plurality of <u>authorization</u> codes for licenses of several licensors are stored on the dongle.

39.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein remote data connections are established to computers for each of the several licensors, in order to permit the

corresponding receipt by the first computer of a restored authorization codes to be restored from each of the several licensors.

40.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein sending with the first computer of the licensee the read license parameters further comprises:

establishing a remote data connection between the first computer of the licensee and a central management computer; and

sending the security file to the management computer, the management computer establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer.

41.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein sending with the first computer of the licensee the read license parameters further comprises:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a computer of the licensor.

42.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the security file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the data-processing device and said process method further comprises:

reading the serial number from the security file; and

sending the serial number to a management computer.

43.   (New) A method comprising:

reading from a first dongle, which is connected via an interface to a first computer used by a licensee and storing an original authorization code, parameters associated with a license from the licensor to the licensee;

storing on the first computer the parameters read from a first dongle;

upon the dongle becoming lost or defective, sending the parameters to a second computer;

after sending the license parameters, receiving a restored authorization code at the first computer in a format that can be interpreted only by a replacement dongle and not by the first computer; and

storing the restored authorization code on a replacement dongle connected to the first computer.

44.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the original authorization code is not stored in the file.

45.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the parameters are signed with time information and are stored at least partially in encrypted form in the file.

46.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the parameters are stored in an encrypted form.

47.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the parameters are associated with first dongle and the original authorization code stored by the first dongle.

48.   (New) The method of claim 43 further comprising:

receiving at the second computer the parameters from the first computer;

evaluating the parameters;

deciding with the second computer whether or not to restore an authorization code based on the evaluation of the parameters; and

generating the restored authorization code based on the parameters and returning to the first computer the restored authorization code if it is decided to restore an authorization code, and otherwise not returning an authorization code.

49.   (New) The method according to Claim 43, wherein the parameters include time information; and wherein the method further comprises:

communicating time information from the first computer to the second computer;

evaluating the time information at the second computer; and

generating the restored authorization code based on the time information.

50.   (New) The method according to Claim 43,

wherein reading from a first dongle parameters associated with a license from the licensor to the licensee comprises reading parameters associated with a plurality of licenses, at least one license from each of a plurality of licensors;

wherein, upon the dongle becoming lost or defective, parameters stored in the first computer for each of the plurality of licenses is sent, respectively, to a computer of each of the licensor issuing the license to which the parameters are associated;

wherein, the first computer receives from at least one of the computers of the plurality of licensors a restored authorization code in a format that can be interpreted only by the replacement dongle and not by the first computer; and

wherein the first computer stores each authorization code received from the plurality of licensors on the replacement dongle.

51. (New) The method of Claim 43, further comprising storing on the first computer an unmodifiable serial number of the first dongle, sending the unmodifiable serial number from the first computer to a management computer, and storing the unmodifiable serial number in a block list at the management computer.

52. (New) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the dongle and the method further comprises:

reading the serial number from the file;

sending the serial number to a second computer; and

storing the serial number in a block list at the second computer.

53. (New) A computer readable medium, excluding signals, storing instructions that, when read by a computer, cause the computer to execute a process for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor for a dongle, the method comprising:

reading from a first dongle, which is connected via an interface to a first computer used by a licensee and storing an original authorization code, parameters associated with a license from the licensor to the licensee;

storing on the first computer the parameters read from a first dongle;

upon the dongle becoming lost or defective, sending the parameters to a second computer;

after sending the license parameters, receiving a restored authorization code at the first computer in a format that can be interpreted only by a replacement dongle and not by the first computer; and

storing the restored authorization code on a replacement dongle connected to the first computer.

9

54.   (New) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the original authorization code is not stored in the file.

55.   (New) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters are signed with time information and are stored at least partially in encrypted form in the file.

56.   (New) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters are stored in an encrypted form.

57.   (New) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters are associated with first dongle and the original authorization code stored by the first dongle.

58.   (New) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving at the second computer the parameters from the first computer;

evaluating the parameters;

deciding with the second computer whether or not to restore an authorization code based on the evaluation of the parameters; and

generating the restored authorization code based on the parameters and returning to the first computer the restored authorization code if it is decided to restore an authorization code, and otherwise not returning an authorization code.

59.   (New) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters include time information; and wherein the method further comprises:

communicating time information from the first computer to the second computer;

evaluating the time information at the second computer; and

generating the restored authorization code based on the time information.

60.   (New) The computer readable medium of claim 53,

wherein reading from a first dongle parameters associated with a license from the licensor to the licensee comprises reading parameters associated with a plurality of licenses, at least one license from each of a plurality of licensors;

10

wherein, upon the dongle becoming lost or defective, parameters stored in the first computer for each of the plurality of licenses is sent, respectively, to a computer of each of the licensors issuing the license to which the parameters are associated;

wherein, the first computer receives from at least one of the computers of the plurality of licensors a restored authorization code in a format that can be interpreted only by the replacement dongle and not by the first computer; and

wherein the first computer stores each authorization code received from the plurality of licensors on the replacement dongle.

61. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the method further comprises storing on the first computer an unmodifiable serial number of the first dongle, sending the unmodifiable serial number from the first computer to a management computer, and storing the unmodifiable serial number in a block list at the management computer.